

## International Protests against Secularization Law

Senior Lecturer Ion Țuțuianu, PhD  
*“Vasile Alecsandri” University, Bacău, Romania*  
*tutuianuion@yahoo.com*

**Abstract:** Approved unanimously by the Romanian nation, the legal act of secularization must be recognized and the guarantor powers of principalities. This recognition from the outside was the important question not easy. If until now the problem was so dedicated monastic estates in the country and troubled by foreign chancelleries, already had many years of international dispute, after the appearance of secularization law, going into another stage. Romanian governments had to keep changing, but the problem was national and secularization remains constant.

**Keyword:** Monastery; secularization; ruler

Holy Places of the East were to peat understandable anger in their desperation given the huge loss of income from Romania.

If until now used the Greek monks many tricks and games backstage, thwarting plans for the Romanian government, when they saw the hit, could not spare the Romanian government will use all weapons, more or less diplomatic, political or legal because the moral ones most venerable religious holy places had not ever care also existed more in imagination or naive Romanians always and everywhere.

The day after voting law before it is promulgated on December 14, 1863, the Romanian government Sublime Porte Community Events, with documents explaining what was done so the final. “It was an act of high need, a political measure. Prince has only to listen to the idea of progress time by deleting the inalienable property, made use of an absolute right, he imitated everything he practiced ahead of almost all European countries, which aims at this time the Italian government in its provinces of the Adriatic, which aims to achieve the Sublime Porte itself. There are general considerations that are axioms in political economy, if not done before, this is because Prince has hoped a deal. Law said the country feeling.”

It was a presentation of general and polite and did not want to appear as a mandatory report.

It is known that elective Assembly, clergy and public opinion much wanted and needed the right solution Romanian interests. No elective Assembly session did not go without mention national government that this issue should take precedence. Important is to note how all divisions stopped whenever it was dedicated to the issue of monasteries. Romanian clergy from metropolitans to the priests of the village came together to protest against unfounded claims and interpretations of the Holy Places communities. (Odobesco, 1983, p. 18) The media embraced this issue and often accused the government of national betrayal because it is definitely with Greek monks. Leaflets appeared that abolished the Greek phrase, which seek to explain that "worship" means donation. Among others argued that these acts of worship should not be understood except as a kind of subordination of a spiritual, religious suzerainty<sup>1</sup> due.

It recalled that aid the holy places of the East, in the spirit of these worship had to be made only of the abundance of monasteries, "and the missing years to send less"<sup>2</sup>.

It is only now that emphasize early founders were dedicated wealth of other donors later, that the worship of wealth data could count on the founders and others not. (Brezoianu, 1861, pp. 9,10, 12, 38) Historical truth begins to emerge<sup>3</sup> following the publication of documents of several monasteries in which worship was considered as an eternal surplus income to charity to monks need, and not as a real gift, final. And alms that if any year was fruitless, to no longer send.

Research documents worship, Greek monks revealed the fraud, because they were dedicated to some haggling, that first earth to maintain monasteries and send only what is in addition

No builder has not imagined that the worship of the monastery to abolish The reaction was immediate communication Gate event in Bucharest grand vizier Fuad Pasha letter to the ruler of January 2, 1864: Prince, Sublime Porte was informed that the United Principalities Assembly voted to request of the Minister, a law

---

<sup>1</sup> Réponse des Saints –Lieux d’Orient au mémoire du gouvernement des Principautés Unies sur les monastères grecs/Response of the Holy Places "in memory of the East United Principalities Government of the Greek monasteries Paris, October 1863, p. 79.

<sup>2</sup> Ibidem, p. 40.

<sup>3</sup> La verite sur la question des couvents dédiés en Moldavie –Valachie par un moldave/ The truth of the matter of the dedicated monasteries in Moldavia - Wallachia for a Moldovan, Paris, 1863.

under which the dedicated monasteries are declared to be secular, with the Holy Places pecuniary compensation of 61 million piastres.

Your Highness must not hide the effect produced on the Sublime Porte. Our surprise was the deeper; the more we were far from thinking that Your Grace will make it so high precipitation in the way that proposed solution without waiting for an answer Sublime Porte and the Guarantor Powers. The question reveals essentially monasteries dedicated international transaction whose terms are specified in the Protocol of the Conference of Paris XIII. It could not be determined only by the intervention of power, which has a direct and mutual understanding between the two parties. You know, Prince, that the Government did everything together to reach this agreement and that its efforts have met with insurmountable difficulties. Having become convinced of the futility of continuing on this path Sublime Porte thought he must offer to meet representatives of the guarantor powers in Conference to try to settle the issue. Your Highness must be convinced that the Sultan has an equal interest to safeguard the legitimate rights of the Principalities, and any prejudice the legitimate rights of the Greek clergy. The incident I'm talking about, the worse the situation before an act of written stipulations derogating the world powers.

Sublime Porte as the suzerain power of the United Principalities, as sovereign of the party directly interested in the business and as a signatory to the Paris Convention, is in need of Your Highness said that the Assembly vote does not recognize any characters likely to prejudice the rights and existing stipulations, called voting that it considered null and void and keep up the question of monasteries dedicated to the legal ground, which is the Protocols of 1858.Fuad.”

Russia was expected to disapprove the act of secularization. Prince Gorciakoff, telegraphs Novicoff Ambassador to December 27, 1863: “Aali Pasha to unite, Baron-Ossen Prokesh Ezskina, to make a protest in terms of the more energetic”. Also on December 27 Romanian diplomatic agent in Paris was assured of the sympathy of the French Government, by Drouyn de Lhuys: “I will not hide, a novelty that I know of my belief”. Secularization law is certainly a solution, but its nature can already attest place as a Russian initiative, the most vivid observations of the guarantor powers. Your government and Parliament took a unilateral decision to suppress the rights protocol, which are listed here. He tells you that share this kind of proceeding, would be contrary to our obligations. But I cannot say that I agree with the proposals from Petersburg. Romanian government last act surprised and I must reflect on his.

Moreover, I was informed by representatives of the guarantor powers.” John's conclusion is that it is not safe Aleksandri on time if France would support Romania's actions, however, the French minister pleads not withdraw their support in this circumstance so hard and stresses that the role of policeman unconscious accepts Gate of Orthodoxy in Romania for interests that are neither European nor religious, but only the Greek-Russian. (Popescu-Spineni, 1936, pp. 95-96) Gate decision to act is communicated secularization in Bucharest on January 11, 1864 consuls of Austria, England, Prussia and Russia. Response by Foreign Minister Prince Turkish Gate shows surprise that misinterpreted the law: “Gate should approve and defend an act which strengthens peace and prosperity of the Principalities. Secularization has been resolved as required elective Assembly, representing the nation.” (Popescu-Spineni, 1936, p. 97) However support for the issue of secularization made consuls in Bucharest Russia, Austria, Prussia and England, grand vizier letter of January 2, 1864 was not a serious threat. They read the January 3, 1864 Prince, received instructions from Constantinople, as the law is void. (Vasilescu, 1932, p. 94) France, which abstained as Italy, announced by Foreign Minister that disapproves measures and impossibility of applying Protocol XIII, proposing to grant an allowance which was already established by the Romanian government.

At 5 / January 17, 1864 Prince write to Turkish Foreign Minister: “National pressure became so great, that no delay could be done without causing discontent unpredictable. First I had to deal with order. It was the only way to ensure public peace and prevent popular movements that would have benefited those who disorder. So you have to lead the national sense.

Vote from 13/25 December 1863 was a measure of high need. Instructions will confirm what Mr. Negri will release, as the only solution to the problem monasteries dedicated.” (Vasilescu, 1932, p. 95) Great Powers were protests declarative character, they came over because they felt offended by the Romanian government procedure, rather than resolving the issue in favor of the state, as can be seen from the diplomatic correspondence of 17 January 1864, the diplomatic agent in Paris:”Remember that we are guided by Constantinople. We have here a representative of the Empire, with full powers. His opinion has more weight in decisions Ruler. We set out and weighed what the solution will entail and what our folks could even impose, in the provided observations and we were made, the statements of the Porte, Russia, England and Austria. This does not stop us. What can happen? Parliament's vote was declared null and void. What did Parliament?.

Even on the day of receipt of Fuad Pasha's letter, she passed the 51 million piastres, as the final sacrifice, the law of secularization. Yesterday the four powers agencies were in agreement with Gate. What will result from this? In two days the government will be authorized to borrow this amount will be deposited in one place, and this problem will be completely liquidated. What will be? Protests? And then? Both steps Gate and the Powers will cause events in the country that will support Prince. Only brute force could overcome national sentiment. Be sure that they will not use" Be sure that the Prince will not give back, does not want and cannot (Popescu-Spini, 1936, pp. 97-98) Prince wrote to Aali Pasha, Turkish Foreign Minister, which does not happen in correspondence with the suzerain power. Aali Pasha was informed by Romanian Bordeianu, Fuad Pasha's letter and the effects will be in the country, but the response was: "I think like you but do my duty". The approach of the four diplomats was only one formal reading (Bossy, 1931, pp. 316-322) Greek abbots in the Romanian Principalities were arrested for insubordination and challenging attitude but also to hide documents. They proceeded as their superiors did not accept the legality of secularization wealth in their possession. For this reason rages and published protests against the Romanian state. Neighboring nations did not support the Holy Places. Serbs even considers the act of secularization: "For us is loved and followed with interest the development of Romania. He completed an act of moral and material interest and appeared a new source of state revenues and ended intrigue of spies living", wrote newspaper Vidov Dan. Romanian Prince thanked at 10 februarie 1864 the French foreign minister gave support Romanian diplomats in Paris and Constantinople. Austrian and Russian Ambassadors, C. Negri wrote : "We as Orthodox monks have the same rights as Greeks, who want to flay our country". Aali Pasha's reply: "Treaty of Paris declared autonomous in our domestic affairs and earth Romania is an internal problem". On February 24, 1864 show in Brussels news: "problem monasteries in Romania, European diplomacy in Constantinople divided into two camps" Even if Russia and Austria were from Turkey, the French government assesses the extent Romanian Prince. Thus secularization became a fait accompli as envisaged.

On February 17, 1864 L'Independence Belge reported: "After changing the attitude of Russia and England Porte no longer oppose the secularization of Romania.". At the same time C. Negri wrote to A.I. Cuza: "It is the most difficult problem I treated her. In the end our country will earn more, because we get rid of foreign enemy".

Patriarchs saw that it escapes income in Romania is addressed Sublime Porte, to March 20, 1864: "Highness, the East Church leaders are profoundly saddened to see that the government opposes the United Principalities nonstop holy places against property and expelled the Greek monks eight months ago. But homeless and without livelihoods, these monks are not allowed to leave Romania until it surrenders the property deeds to the Government avaricious. That is why Church leaders appeal to Your Highness for our passports monks to come with us." (Vasilescu, 1932, p. 98)

Following this letter, representatives of the guarantor powers, met in conference with Aali Paşa president, without France and Italy. The conclusion Conference was that the Prince A.I. Cuza, Protocol XIII respect for legality.

With this support Patriarch of Constantinople, accused the Romanians were given by the Catholic calendar by changing. In fact the patriarch was ridden by secularization and a discussion was to save his figure. Patriarchate of art diversion used only for worsening relations between Romania and the suzerain power. Loss of protective power reaching the seven principalities and powers guarantors and Romanian policy orientation towards Europe, upset the court of Petersburg. Loss influences the Principalities was to see Russia and Turkey with the hostility towards unification of the Principalities. Representatives of the Holy Places and speculating interests of Russian-Turkish principalities were the meeting point of two hostile powers. In the run-secularization, the events were precipitated by various measures of the Romanian government, and calls have increased by Archimandrite Greek Nilos the European courts.

Visit the messenger patriarchal Tsarist Court and Russian support boosted due to the Greek. Russian Foreign Minister on 15 July 1863, communicate with representatives of Russia in addition to the powers signatory to the Treaty of Paris, how to decide this dispute: "Know the position on the issue of secularization guarantor powers. Stakeholders should understand and if not then it will go to arbitration". With all perseverance and Russia the guarantor Powers, the Romanian government established house will generate protests and it will not apply any mixture over the decisions. We find that the position of Romanian Prince remained dignified and even with all those interested secularization was an act of justice and national dignity which puts the Prince Cuza in the novel that brought dignity to his people.

## **Bibliography**

Bossy, R. (1931). *Agenția diplomatică a României în Paris sub Cuza Vodă/Romania's diplomatic agency in Paris under Cuza Voda's reign*. Bucharest.

Brezoianu, I. (1861). *Mănăstirile zise închinată și călugări străini/Monasteries said to be devoted and foreign monks*. Bucharest.

Odobesco, A. (1983). *Etude sur les droits et les obligations des monasteres roumains dedies aux Saints Lieux d'Orient (par l'archimandrite Agathon Otmenedec)/Study on the rights and obligations of the Romanian monasteries dedicated to Holy Places "East (by the" archimandrite*. Bucharest.

Popescu-Spineni, M. (1936). *Procesul mănăstirilor închinată/The process of dedicated monasteries*. Bucharest.

Vasilescu, C. (1932). *Istoricul mănăstirilor închinată și secularizarea averilor lor/ The history of the dedicated monasteries and securing their wealth*. Bucharest.